Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01364 051411Z

65
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 IO-10

PA-01 PRS-01 AGR-05 /105 W
---------- 059039
R 051332Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7870
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1364

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, TD, US
SUBJ: RESUMING PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 124719 AND 126216

1. ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOMIC OFFICER, I MET WITH MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DR. CUTHBERT JOSEPH JUNE 4 AND HELD HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION OF SECRETARY'S NEW INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE A CONSUMER-PRODUCER DIALOGUE ON BASIC ECONOMIC ISSUES. IN A HIGHLY UNCUSTOMARY MOVE, JOSEPH CALLED IN TWO MINISTRY OFFICERS WHO ARE WORKING ON GOTT POSITION PAPERS ON DC/LDC ISSUES TO JOIN HIM TO HEAR OUR PRESENTATION. THIS SHOULD DEFINITELY PROMOTE FOLLOW-UP.

2. DR. JOSEPH WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE THAT USG INITIATIVE WAS BEING DISCUSSED WITH GOTT. MEETING WAS ESPECIALLY TIMELY FOR JOSEPH DEPARTED A FEW HOURS LATER FOR GEORGETOWN ACP
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PAGE 02 PORT O 01364 051411Z

MINISTERIAL CONCLAVE WHERE UNDOUBTEDLY THERE WILL BE SOME

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

DISCUSSION OF SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS. IN ADDITION TO IN DEPTH ORAL ELABORATION OF USG INITIATIVES AND SOLICITATION OF GOTT SUPPORT, I LEFT JOSEPH AN AIDE MEMOIRE SUMMARIZING MAJOR POINTS AND COPIES OF SECRETARY'S IEA AND OECD SPEECHES.

3. JOSEPH SPIKE WARMLY OF CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH WHICH USG WAS TAKING IN ATTEMPTING TO ADDRESS VOLATILE LDC VERSUS DC ISSUES PROGMATICALLY AND WITHOUT RANCOUR. HE POINTEDLY ASKED, HOWEVER, WHY CONCEPT OF COMMISSIONS TO ADDRESS SUCH SUBJECTS AS RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY, AND THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED NATIONS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN LAUNCED UNDER A UNITED NATIONS UMBRELLA, AND WHY USG DID NOT LAUNCH ITS INITIATIVE THROUGH UN. I NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF UN BODIES WERE SEIZED WITH SOME ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM (SUCH AS CONSULTATIVE GROUP FORMED BY WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE), BUT POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NO EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ENCOMPASSING BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS WHICH IS DEALING WITH THE ENERGY QUESTION. MOREOVER, THE DEMAND FOR MORE SPECIFIC DIALOGUE ON SOME OF THESE ISSUES IN AN LDC/DC CONTEXT HAD CRYSTALLIZED IN THE PARIS PREPCON AND THE RECONVENING OF THE PREPCON UNDER EXPANDED PARAMETERS OFFERED A PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE MECHANISM FOR PROCEEDING EXPEDITIOUSLY TO FORM COMMISSIONS OF RELEVANT SIZE AND COMPOSITION TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS, ALBEIT WITH FULL COORDINATION WITH WORK BEING PERFORMED IN OTHER ORGANS.

4. THE MINISTER ALSO ASKED WHETHER OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OECD, AND FRANCE IN PARTICULAR, HAD FORMALLY ENDORSED THE USG PROPOSALS. WE NOTED THAT WE DID NOT YET HAVE INFORMATION ON THE REACTION OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS, BUT UNDERTOOK TO ANSWER JOSEPH'S QUESTION WHEN THE INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE.

5. ENDEAVORING TO PROVIDE FOR THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXPOSURE OF THE USG INITIATIVE TO KEY MEMBERS OF THE GOTT, I SOUGHT DR. JOSEPH'S VIEWS ON MY COMMUNICATING SOME OF THIS INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET. HE GRATIFYINGLY ENDORSED OUR PROVIDING INFORMATION IN DEPTH TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS PREVATT (PETROLEUM) AND CHAMBERS (FINANCE) AND MINISTERS MAHABIR (COMMERCE & INDUSTRY) AND ROBINSON (AGRICULTURE). WE WILL PROVIDE MATERIAL IN WRITING AND FOLLOW-UP ORALLY.
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6. DR. JOSEPH STATED THAT HE WILL TAKE UP FORMALLY WITH THE CABINET OUR REQUEST FOR GOTT SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVE, BUT NOTED THAT SOMETIMES IT WAS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN A FORMAL DECISION OF ENDORSEMENT IN THE GOTT AND SILENCE SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS DISAGREEMENT IF NO AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE IS QUICKLY FORTHCOMING.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

7. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THE NOTIFICATION AND EXPOSITION OF THE USG INITIATIVE AND THE SPIRIT OF CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION EVOKED WERE SINCERELY APPRECIATED BY MINISTER JOSEPH AND THAT THIS ATTITUDE WILL BE PASSED ON. I AM NOT PARTICULARLY SANGUINE THAT THE GOTT WILL FORMALLY ENDORSE THE PLAN UNLESS PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS IS PERSONALLY EXCITED BY THE IDEA, BUT BELIEVE GOTT WILL GENERALLY AGREE WITH THE CONCEPTS LAUNCHED. JOSEPH'S QUESTION REGARDING THE UNITED NATIONS IS NOT AN IDLE ONE, HOWEVER, SINCE LIKE MANY OF ITS FELLOW "THIRD WORLD" GOVERNMENTS THE GOTT SEES THE UN AND ITS BODIES AS MORE SIGNIFICANTLY "THEIR" ORGANIZATION IN CONTRAST TO SUCH BODIES AS THE IMF, GATT, AND THE IBRD, AND SOME SUSPICION MAY ARISE IF WE ARE SEEN TOO CLEARLY TO BE TRYING TO CIRCUMVENT THE UNITED NATIONS FORA. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AND TALKING POINTS ON THIS ISSUE, AND ALSO PRESUMES THAT QUESTION OF OECD REACTION TO U.S. INITIATIVE WILL BE DEALT WITH IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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